



WESTMEAD MEDICAL RESEARCH FOUNDATION

“It is hard to know what the scariest moment was, but – with no doubt – the happiest one was to see my new born son and my 3 year old boy after leaving Hospital.”

Cedric



Cedric is now fully recovered

When Cedric left home one Sunday morning to play basketball, he never thought that within two years, at just 32, he would need a cardiac ablation, a procedure to destroy the tissue in the heart that allows incorrect electrical signals to cause an abnormal heart rhythm.

This father of two was playing basketball with his friends when he started feeling chest pain and noticing his heart rate rising. Initially he thought he was just tired, but when it took him nearly three hours to recover, he decided to see his GP the next day.

“That Monday night, I was still experiencing short breathing and difficulty walking and by 7pm I had to call an ambulance that took me to hospital where I received electrical shock to the heart to restore its regular rhythm,” Cedric remembers.

Last year Cedric experienced similar symptoms for the second time and more recently, in February 2017, just 10 days after his wife gave birth to his second son, he had to go for a cardiac ablation at Westmead Hospital.

“In Cedric’s case the cardiac ablation was crucial because it cured the arrhythmia for life, without the need for ongoing medications, and more importantly the fear that the arrhythmia would return. This has allowed him to get on and enjoy his life, to work, play and watch his young family grow, without thinking about his heart,” says Dr Saurabh Kumar, one of the Westmead Hospital’s Cardiologists treating Cedric.

Today I hope you [make a gift](#) towards our special Appeal so we can continue to fund life-saving medical research, state of the art equipment and cutting edge services at Westmead.

Heart disease is one of the leading causes of death in Australia and is just one example of an area where your gift would help us improve treatments for this ‘silent killer’, so named because often some of its subtle symptoms are undetected or hard to notice.

[Generous gifts from supporters like you allow Westmead Hospital to provide Cedric and patients from around the country suffering cardiovascular disease with world class treatment that improves survival rates.](#)

The specialists at Westmead explained to Cedric the benefits and risks of the procedure. Being a young man, who has just had his second son, he was determined to follow the cardiologist’s recommendation before and after the procedure, and in February this year he had a successful cardiac ablation.

“All the staff members at Westmead were very professional. The nurses were very compassionate and considerate,” says Cedric. Waking up with no chest pain was a special moment for Cedric. “When I woke up, I remember being just very hungry. A nurse named Amy was particularly friendly, she talked to me and even gave me a sandwich,” he says.

“I am so grateful to be back at home and be able to play with Marcus, our 3-year old son, and with Lynn, our new born baby who was only 10-days when I had one of the scariest days of my life,” Cedric reveals.

Without donors like you, Cedric’s story might have ended differently. Heart disease kills one Australian every 12 minutes; this is approximately the time you may have taken to read this letter.

Researchers at The Westmead Institute for Medical Research are working on the use of gene therapy for the treatment and prevention of sudden death from heart rhythm problems and looking at ways to use stem cells to regenerate cardiac muscle damaged by heart attack. Your support is needed now more than ever to progress this ground-breaking work.

[Your gift today](#) would make a huge difference providing healthier and longer lives to families like Cedric’s. It is because of your generosity that more people across Western Sydney and beyond can survive deadly diseases.

Yours sincerely
Joe Conneely
Head of Development